



Melchizedek: King and Priest of Salem

Melchizedek King and Priest of Salem

- **A Mysterious Name**
- Melchizedek, or Malki Tzedeq Hebrew מֶלְכִי־צְדָק
- King of righteousness; king of Salem
- Priest of El Elyon or God most high
- Name is two words: malki meaning king, and tzedeq meaning righteousness
- His name is similar to Adoni-tzedeq אֲדֹנָי־צְדָק in Joshua 10:1-3 meaning “lord of righteousness”
- Psalm 110:4 refers to Melchizedek as a prototype of the Messiah.
- The Qumran Scrolls use it as a name of the archangel Michael, in contrast with Belial, who is given the name of Melchi-resha “king of wickedness”

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- **A Mysterious Man**
- Gen. 14:18-20 - “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High. 19 And he blessed him and said: Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth; 20 And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tithe of all.”
- Psalms 110:4 - “The LORD has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”
- Heb. 5:5-6, 10 - “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but it was He who said to Him: You are My Son, Today I have begotten You. 6 As He also says in another place: You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek”

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- Heb. 6:20 - “Where the forerunner has entered for us, even Jesus, having become High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”
- Heb. 7:11, 14-17 - “Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron? For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood. 15 And it is yet far more evident if, in the likeness of Melchizedek, there arises another priest 16 who has come, not according to the law of a fleshly commandment, but according to the power of an endless life. 17 For He testifies: You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”
- Heb. 7:1-10

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- Speculations Of Men
 - An angel (Origen, Didymus)
 - Enoch (Husius, Calmet)
 - Shem (Jerome, Luther)
 - Or a “theophany, a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ
- We will be content with what God has revealed about him in His word

The Person Of Melchizedek

- His life is revealed in only 3 verses out of 31,102 verses in the Bible
- The battle of the kings - Gen. 14:1-11
- Lot is captured and then rescued by Abraham - Gen. 14:12-17

The Person Of Melchizedek

- Upon his return, Abraham is met by Melchizedek
 - Gen. 14:18 - “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was the priest of God Most High.”
- Melchizedek blessed Abraham
 - Gen. 14:19 - “And he blessed him and said: Blessed be Abram of God Most High, Possessor of heaven and earth”
- Abraham paid tithes to Melchizedek
 - Gen. 14:20 - “And blessed be God Most High, Who has delivered your enemies into your hand. And he gave him a tithe of all.”

The Person Of Melchizedek

- The Hebrew writer used Melchizedek to illustrate the priesthood of Christ
 - Heb. 7:1-2 - “For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, 2 to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all, first being translated king of righteousness, and then also king of Salem, meaning king of peace”

The Person Of Melchizedek

- He made some intriguing statements about Melchizedek's person
 - Heb. 7:3 - “**(1)** Without father, without mother, without genealogy, **(2)** having neither beginning of days nor end of life, **(3)** but made like the Son of God, **(4)** remains a priest continually”

The Place Of Melchizedek

- Melchizedek received tithes from Abraham
 - Heb. 7:4-6 - “Now consider how great this man was, to whom even the patriarch Abraham gave a tenth of the spoils. 5 And indeed those who are of the sons of Levi, who receive the priesthood, have a commandment to receive tithes from the people according to the law, that is, from their brethren, though they have come from the loins of Abraham; 6 but he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises.”

The Place Of Melchizedek

- Melchizedek blessed Abraham
 - Heb. 7:6-8 - “...he whose genealogy is not derived from them received tithes from Abraham and blessed him who had the promises. 7 Now beyond all contradiction the lesser is blessed by the better. 8 Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them...”

The Place Of Melchizedek

- Melchizedek's service was not affected by death
 - Heb. 7:8 - “Here mortal men receive tithes, but there he receives them, of whom it is witnessed that he lives.”
 - How he lives and remains a priest continually, the Bible does not say. But in this way, Melchizedek is greater than the Levitical priests because there is no record or command regarding the end of his priesthood

The Place Of Melchizedek

- Even Levi, representative of the entire priesthood under the Law of Moses, paid tithes to Melchizedek
 - Heb. 7:9-10 - “Even Levi, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, so to speak, 10 for he was still in the loins of his father when Melchizedek met him.”

The Place Of Melchizedek

- The entire point of the matter is that the priesthood of Jesus Christ is the greatest of all priesthoods in all dispensations
 - Heb. 7:11 - “Therefore, if perfection were through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise according to the order of Melchizedek, and not be called according to the order of Aaron?”

The Place Of Melchizedek

- Heb. 7:23-28 - “Also there were many priests, because they were prevented by death from continuing. 24 But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood. 25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them. 26 For such a High Priest was fitting for us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and has become higher than the heavens; 27 who does not need daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the people's, for this He did once for all when He offered up Himself. 28 For the law appoints as high priests men who have weakness, but the word of the oath, which came after the law, appoints the Son who has been perfected forever.”

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- First lesson is that there were greater men in the early, young days of the Patriarchal world than we will ever see in our own time.
- Second lesson is that these greatest of righteous men were not of the line of Eber, or Abraham, or Jews, or Christians. They did not have the written word, or the fully revealed will of God, or the promise of salvation through the seed of Abraham. And yet they managed to serve the Lord with a standard of righteousness unparalleled in our own time.
- Third lesson is that the dimly revealed, obscure matters in scripture will be revealed in all of the glory and wisdom of God in heaven. This should drive us to even greater diligence to go there.

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- What can we know for certain is that Jesus' eternal priesthood is illuminated by the priesthood of the great Melchizedek
 - Psalm 110:4 - "The LORD has sworn And will not relent, You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."
 - Zech. 6:12-13 - "...Thus says the LORD of hosts, saying: Behold, the Man whose name is the BRANCH! From His place He shall branch out, And He shall build the temple of the LORD; 13 Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both"